

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

September 13, 2007



City of Eugene

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AROUND THE CITY

Neighborhood Services on the Move

The Planning and Development Department is experiencing exciting new changes. On Monday, September 10, Neighborhood Services officially moved from the Community Development Division to the Planning Division. On the same day, Isaac Markehe and Michelle Mortensen arrived as the staff team to carry on and further develop the work of Neighborhood Services.

Both Isaac and Michelle have previously worked in the Neighborhood program. Isaac has been assigned as the interim Neighborhood Services Manager, and brings a strong community-based background from the Recreation Service's Outdoor Program. Michelle has been assigned as the interim Neighborhood Liaison, bringing with her exceptional customer service skills, and citywide knowledge and experience from her work as the Public Service Officer in the City Managers Office. On Monday, September 17, an Assistant/Associate Neighborhood Planner position will be posted to provide additional expertise and resources for the Neighborhood Services Program. For more information, contact Isaac Markehe at 682-6243 or via e-mail (isaac.r.markehe@ci.eugene.or.us).

University of Oregon Contracts With Eugene Fire & EMS

It is finally feeling like fall, and with fall comes football . . . Duck football . . . Duck fever! Not everyone may be aware that the City of Eugene Fire & EMS Department contracts with the University of Oregon to provide two chief officers and five medical teams (two people each) of Advanced Life Support (ALS) personnel to provide emergency medical service coverage at U of O home football games.

During the first game of the 2007 season (the Ducks' 48-27 thrashing of Houston on September 1), EMS personnel treated several people suffering from heat-related issues. However, the majority of the medical incidents at Autzen stadium that require professional attention are true medical emergencies, as might be expected in what amounts to a concentrated city with a population base of some 60,000 people. On average, Fire & EMS transports three people to the hospital from each home game, with conditions that may include cardiac issues, seizures, diabetic problems, allergic reactions, and even dehydration. So, to the Duck fans out there, rest assured that if you need medical assistance, EMS we will be there. For more information, please call EMS Chief JoAnna Kamppi at 682-7104.

Fun For All, Eugene Recreation's Summer Playground Program

Attendance at *Fun For All* (FFA) increased this year, surpassing 19,160 children and youth at the 10 playground sites. FOOD for Lane County served more than 13,897 lunches at seven of the FFA locations and hundreds of snacks were served at sites that did not qualify for the lunch program. FFA is an important part of Eugene Recreation's commitment to provide services for everyone in the community. The programs are free and offered in neighborhood parks throughout Eugene to minimize barriers to participation.

More than 4,040 individuals attended FFA events this summer, including family-friendly Movie Nights in the Park and Weekend Wading Pool parties. FFA hosted numerous other special programs provided in partnership with the Eugene Public Library, University of Oregon, and Outdoor Program. Activities included Summer Reading Programs, Outdoor Team Adventure, U of O roving artists, games specialists, and guest story tellers.

FFA also provides employment, job skill and leadership development for teens. This year, more than one-third of the FFA staff was under the age of 19. Over all demographics of participants were 70% white, 4% African American, 14% multi-racial, 2% Native American, 6% Hispanic, 2% Asian, 2% unspecified. For more information, contact Recreation Programmer Raquel Wells, 682-5521.

City of Eugene Receives Oregon's First Forest Legacy Funding

On September 10, representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, office of Congressman Peter DeFazio, and the City's Parks and Open Space Division joined Mayor Kitty Piercy and community leaders in celebration of the state of Oregon's first funded forest protection project through the federally sponsored Forest Legacy Program. The City of Eugene received \$460,000 in Forest Legacy funding, which allowed the City to work with a private land owner to preserve 25 acres of oak habitat at Wild Iris Ridge. The preserved area encompasses the headwaters of Willow Creek and serves as an important habitat and recreational link between the Ridgeline Park system and the West Eugene Wetlands.



A comprehensive assessment of Oregon's private forest lands by the Forest Legacy Program identified the Eugene-Springfield foothills, where Wild Iris Ridge is located, to be the state's highest priority for protection. The area includes extensive and diverse oak woodlands - supporting the most northerly stands of California black oak and some of the best remaining oak savannas and mixed conifer forests. For more information, please contact Eric Wold, natural resources manager, at 682-4842, or Philip Richardson, landscape architect, at 682-4906.

Prescribed Burns Help Natural Areas and Provide Training for Eugene Fire Department



The West Eugene Wetlands Partnership relies on prescribed fire as a restoration tool to protect valuable biological diversity in prairie ecosystems. This month, the Eugene Fire Department (EFD) will join with the City's Parks and Open Space staff to conduct prescribed burns on two City natural areas in west Eugene: Dragonfly Bend and Meadowlark Prairie. This unique opportunity will provide training for EFD crews while safely achieving ecological goals for preserving Willamette Valley wet prairies. EFD will gain experience in planning for prescribed burns, managing fire at the wildland-urban interface, and coordinating with other emergency response agencies during an action.

The Willamette Valley was once dominated by prairies rich with a diversity of grass and wildflower species, maintained in open condition by frequent burning by native people. To preserve native species and to prevent conversion of open prairie to a closed woodland or forest, this ecosystem requires regular disturbance. Additionally, since many natural areas and private residences are located in the wildland-urban interface, it is especially important to keep fuel levels low. Prescribed burning is a tool used by City staff to help remove standing dead vegetation, decreasing the chances of uncontrolled wildfire.

City staff works hard to make sure the community is protected from potential negative impacts of fire. One challenge is the temporary impact of smoke in the atmosphere. Burning natural prairies produces less smoke than burning grass seed farms; however, smoke is still an important issue to consider. Staff is careful to consider weather conditions and burn only on days when the wind will blow smoke away from residential areas. The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency reviews prescribed burning plans each year, issuing a permit and conditions under which burns may proceed. Burns are conducted in small units to further minimize the amount of smoke produced. In addition, breaks are mowed around the perimeter of each burn unit to prevent fire from traveling outside the planned burn area. Finally, fires are managed by experienced and highly trained fire crews, who are working from detailed burn plans. These plans provide extensive prescriptions describing how to conduct the burn so as to provide the maximum protection for the community.

Several additional burns will be performed by partner agencies on their own lands including the Bureau of Land Management, The Nature Conservancy, and the Army Corps of Engineers. Together these efforts will result in the enhancement and protection of many of the important natural areas enjoyed by the community. For more information, contact Trevor Taylor, natural area restoration supervisor at trevor.h.taylor@ci.eugene.or.us or 682-4888.

Eugene Japanese American Memorial Completed

A bronze statue of a young Japanese American girl, waiting for the train to take her from Eugene to an internment camp in 1942, was installed at the Eugene Japanese American Memorial on the grounds of the Hult Center for the Performing Arts on August 31, 2007. David Clemons, the sculptor, oversaw the installation with his father, Ray Clemons and landscape designer Jim Robinson.

The statue completes the memorial which includes three bronze panels by former internee, Kenge Kobayashi, depicting the experiences of Japanese Americans during World War II, stone pavers engraved by memorialist Lisa Ponder and landscape created by Jim Robinson of Daichi Landscape in the style of a traditional Japanese garden.

The Japanese American Memorial Committee raised funds and selected the overall design and artwork to be installed. The memorial was donated to the City of Eugene and sited on Hult Center grounds due to its proximity to the original site where Japanese-Americans were ordered to report for internment.

For information on the Japanese American Memorial or the City of Eugene public art program, contact Laura Niles, Cultural Services director at 682-2697 or via e-mail, laura.m.niles@ci.eugene.or.us



Back to School with Free Live Homework Help Online

Kids and teens are invited to drop in at any location of Eugene Public Library, any day after 3 p.m. through October 14, to try free *Live Homework Help* at a library computer. Then, they can enter a drawing for back-to-school prizes including flash drives, books, and more.

Live Homework Help is a free online service that safely connects kids with tutors in real time. The site connects students in grades 4 - 12 with immediate one-on-one help by professional, background-checked tutors in math, science, social studies, and English.

All students are welcome to use *Live Homework Help* on Eugene Public Library's computers. In addition, those who have Eugene Public Library cards can use *Live Homework Help* from anywhere; just click the logo at the Library's website: www.eugene-or.gov/library.

How does *Live Homework Help* work? Students and tutors in the online classroom review concepts or specific homework questions using features such as controlled chat, an interactive "white board," and shared Internet browsing. *Live Homework Help* is open seven days a week from 3 - 10 p.m. Spanish-speaking tutors are available for math and science on Sundays through Thursdays, 3 - 7 p.m.

During the past school year, *Live Homework Help* provided more than one million tutoring sessions nationwide. For a chance to win a back-to-school prize, use *Live Homework Help* at a Eugene Public Library computer, and then ask staff to enter the drawing. Winners will be chosen at random after the October 14 Info Expo at the Downtown Library. For more information, call the Eugene Public Library at 682-8316.



Fire & EMS Graduates Eight From Lateral Recruit Academy



Eight new firefighters have joined the ranks of Eugene Fire & EMS having successfully completed an abbreviated, seven-week training academy specially designed for recruits with previous firefighting experience. This was the department's first lateral firefighter recruitment, and it turned out to be highly successful as there was a reduced training requirement and staffing could be brought up to the optimum level in an expeditious manner.

New firefighters are Craig DeGarlais, Buddy Dichari, Brandon Francis, Mark Begines, Michael Caven, Marchello Folino, Ed Hoffman, and Matt Droege. The

department extends its congratulations to these individuals. All have now been assigned to fire stations, where they will serve the remainder of the standard one-year probationary period. For more information, please contact Training Chief Lance Lighty at 682-7131.

Opportunities for Teens @ Eugene Public Library



Teens are invited to apply for the next eight-week session of *Teen Team* at Eugene Public Library. *Teen Team* helps Downtown Library staff get items ready for check out, keep books in order, prepare craft projects for kids' programs, clean books, create displays, and more. This service learning project is a great way to support the Library, meet new friends, and contribute ideas and opinions. Plus, earn community service credit for school. *Teen Team* meets Thursdays, 4 – 5 p.m., starting September 27.

Make Your Own Movies is an extraordinary chance for teens to get hands-on training with video professionals at the Downtown Eugene Public Library. Learn to plan, storyboard, script, shoot, and edit with Apple iMovie. Metro TV teaches a six-week workshop for teens on Tuesdays, 4 – 5 p.m., starting September 27. Cameras and computers are provided for class use. The workshop is free of charge, but space is limited, so apply now. For information or to apply, visit the Downtown Library's Young Adult Desk or call 682-8316.

City of Eugene Offers Eugene Community Event Cable TV Advertising Assistance

The City of Eugene collects a business privilege tax from telecommunications and cable television providers and dedicates those funds for communications technology projects of community benefit.

For a second grant period during FY08, up to \$2,000 of additional funds are available to selected Eugene community event organizers who advertise their Eugene event using the cable communication medium. A cable television media buy that was paid for between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008, potentially qualifies. The process is competitive as funding is limited. Events are reviewed for consistency with one or more of four selected City Council goals: Strengthen and Promote Community "Arts and Outdoors" Assets; Strategy to Help the Homeless in Eugene; Enhance Understanding of Race Issues and Improve Community Relationships; and the Neighborhood Initiative.

Eugene events which are most consistent with the City priorities noted above will be funded until funds are exhausted. A press release has been issued and neighborhood leaders and other community organizations have been notified of this opportunity.

Applications are available on the Telecommunications website (www.eugene-or.gov > Departments > Central Services > Telecommunications) or by contacting Pam Berrian, telecom and Cable Franchise Manager at 682-5590. The deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m., September 28, 2007.

Event advertising grants have been issued to several organizations to-date, including the 2007 Eugene International Film Festival for its October 4, 5, and 6 event at Regal Cinemas, the Relief Nursery for its December 07 Taste of Eugene benefit, the Mid-Oregon Production Arts Network for its Spring 08 Eugene area open house, and the Archaeological Legacy Institute for its May, 2008 event at Soreng Theater. For more information about this grant opportunity, please contact Pam Berrian, 682-5590.

Amazon Pool to Host Water Polo Tournament Play

Some 200 high school athletes from seven Oregon high schools will participate in the Southern Conference Water Polo Tournament held at Amazon Pool over two weekends in September and October. High schools represented in the competition include both boys and girls teams from North and South Eugene, Sheldon, Marist, Cottage Grove, Ashland, and Medford. South Eugene High School's team includes three foreign exchange students from Macedonia who will be attending South this year.



Amazon Pool is the only facility in the conference and one of only three available facilities in the state that has the proper depth, length and width for competition. On September 21 – 23 and again on October 14-16, the seven teams will compete for ranking in the Southern Conference Championships to be held in late October. The tournament is open to the public and attendance is free. For more information, contact Doug Smith, 682-6336.